

Chevening Scholarship

Sri Lankan scholar's experience

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Chevening Scholar 2018/19

Chevening Scholarship – History

- UK government's international awards programme aimed at developing global leaders.
- Funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partner organisations
- UK abolished existing subsidies for international students in 1980 – required to pay full-cost fees.
- UK government announces that the government has decided to increase its support for overseas students.
- The programme is referred to as the 'FCO Scholarships and Awards Scheme' (FCO SAS) from the 1984/1985 academic year. -100 scholars
- Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd renames the programme after Chevening House, the official residence of the Foreign Secretary in Sevenoaks, Kent.

Overview

- Every year close to 2000 scholarships are provided for students representing 150 countries
- There is no fixed number per say – In 2018 SL received 8 chevening scholarships
- Chevening alumni alliance officially launched in 2014 with the mission of keeping alumni connected beyond their scholarship or fellowship experience
- Chevening hits 50,000 alumni in 2018
- It is beyond mere a scholarship to learn - it is for you to become a global leader

#MyCheveningJourney

- I got to know when a friend of mine received it
- Studied economics in University of Colombo
- Journalist for few years and then a researcher at the Treasury
– this helped with working experience
- Research about public debt, trade, and taxation
- Chevening scholar in 2018/19
- M.Sc at the University of Warwick
- Currently employed at Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
- Chevening helped to meet friends from across the globe

Qualifications

- People who have the passion, ideas, and influence to provide the solutions and leadership
- Be a citizen of a Chevening-eligible country or territory.
- ***Have completed all components of an undergraduate degree that will enable you to gain entry onto a postgraduate programme at a UK university by the time you submit your application.***
- ***Have at least two years of work experience. (Part time work counts)***
- Apply to three different eligible [UK university courses](#) and have received an unconditional offer from one of these choices by July in respective year

What you should know ?

- Four year or three year degree does not matter
 - As long as unconditional offer is secured from a UK university
- ***Class is not a factor***
- Research experience is important – but not a must
 - Remember two year experience is a must
 - Ideally relevant to the field

English language requirement

- Chevening accepts English language tests from five providers:
 - *Academic IELTS (paper or computer-based)*
 - *Pearson PTE Academic*
 - *TOEFL iBT*
 - *C1 Advanced (formerly Cambridge English: Advanced [CAE])*
 - *Trinity ISE II (B2)*
- ***For IELTS - Overall score of 6.5 with a minimum score in each component of 5.5***
- **TOEFL iBT** - Overall score of 79 with specific minimum score in each component
- ***You should meet certain English language criteria to be eligible for your university course – this depends on your course***

GRE Requirement

- No requirement of GRE for chevening
- But your course may ask for that
 - Ex : Oxford, Cambridge ask GRE to do economifcs
- University requirements should be met to get the university offer

Work Experience

- Two year work experience is a must
- The types of work experience that are eligible for Chevening can include:
 - Full-time employment
 - Part-time employment
 - Voluntary work
 - Paid or unpaid internships
- Work experience can be completed before, during, or after graduating from your undergraduate studies.
- No need to meet the work experience requirement in one period of employment.
- Two years' work experience = 2,800 hours
- If you have worked part-time, the minimum requirement will have been accumulated over a longer period.

Selection criteria

- Work experience
- Relevance to the fields
- ***Four essays***
 - ***Leadership***
 - ***Contribution to the country – future plans***
 - ***Networking***
 - ***Why study in UK ?***
- Passion and motivation
- Academic performance
- Are you exceptional ? – then you are a perfect chevening candidate

Official websites

- Who can apply ? - <https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/who-can-apply/english-language/>
- Find a course - <https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/find-a-course/>
- English language - <https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/who-can-apply/english-language/>
- Work Experience - <https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/who-can-apply/work-experience/>
- Terms and conditions - <https://www.chevening.org/current-cheveners/policies/terms-and-conditions-scholarships/>

Documents required

- At the submission of application
 - Degree Transcript
 - Passport / NIC – Not compulsory
 - Any other awards or certificates
- If you are shortlisted for interviews
 - Two reference letters
- If you are selected after interviews
 - Unconditional offer from one university
 - English language requirements

Courses and Universities

- You should select three courses of your choice
- Most Masters courses in UK are eligible for chevening
- Full list is here - <https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/find-a-course/>
- the courses you choose must be **full-time**, and:
 - Start in the autumn term (usually September/October)
 - Taught master's (i.e. not research-focused MRes programmes)
- Courses cannot be:
 - Part-time or distance learning
 - Less than nine months in duration and more than 12 months in duration
 - PhD or DPhil
 - Taught with more than one month of study outside the UK
- Pending results is not an issue - but not advisable

Timeline

- Applications open in first week of August and closes first week of November
- Shortlisted applicants are informed about interviews in February
- Interviews take place March/April
- Results are announced in June
- Once you meet all conditions (language, university offer) you get the FAL
- Start the course in September/October

Selection

- **Conditionally selected**
- **You are selected subject to**
 - **Obtain unconditional offer from a university you chose**
 - **Fulfill English language requirements ‘**
- **‘reserve’ candidate**
- If you have been selected as a reserve candidate, it means that you may be able to take up an award should another applicant withdraw or if further funding becomes available.
- Unable to confirm whether you will receive an award at this stage,
- Chevening Scholarship applicants should ensure that you to submit your English language test results and unconditional offer letter

Courses and Choices

- You must select three courses
- It should be listed as first, second and third choices
- You do not need offers from all three universities
- If you have one offer letter, that too is sufficient
- But you cant apply outside these three choices

Terms and conditions

- You have to return to the country within six months of finishing the degree
- You have to serve the country minimum of two years
- Place of work does not matter
- No need to resign from current job
- Visa is given only for one and half years
- Allowed to work part time
- Must disclose on your application form whether you have applied, or intend to apply, for any other scholarships or awards.
- You may continue to be in receipt of a salary from your past employer during your Scholarship.
- Should not accept employment or internship opportunities unless agreed with the Secretariat.
- You are not permitted to be outside of the UK for either academic or personal reasons for more than 30 days throughout the entire period of your Scholarship
- There is no provision for dependents of Chevening Scholars. Scholars are advised not to bring dependents to the UK.
- The Chevening programme provides no financial or pastoral support for dependants and will not endorse the visa applications of, nor provide travel for, dependants.

Reference letters (Important)

- Two reference letters
 - One work and one academic preferably
- Reference letters do not need to have handwritten signatures, but the British embassy or high commission may contact your referees for verification.
- Your references can be addressed to your local British embassy/high commission.
- Very important that these matches to your description
- You should aim to submit references from those listed in your application.
- However, Chevening may accept different references in extenuating circumstances

Benefits

- Full cover of tuition fees
- Monthly stipend over 1000 pounds to cover accommodation, food etc (this is more than enough)
- Settling allowance over 500 pounds – to travel to airport, buy stuff to settle etc
- Departure allowance
- No visa fee – chevening and commonwealth has separate visa category
- Air tickets to UK and return
- Many other chevening events happens in every month
- Traveling cost to chevening orientation and farewell (It is in london)
- A contribution of up to £75 for TB testing, where this is required.

Thank you

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- Disclosure : This presentation was prepared in my personal capacity based on my personal experience. This should not be treated as an official document